

**JAPAN-2
NORTH
AMERICAN
COMMISSION ON COOPERATIVE MISSION**

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Executive Registry

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ROBERT W. NORTHUP, Secretary

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January 29, 1976

(orig under Northup)

Mr. William E. Colby
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

Through a variety of information which has recently become public knowledge and especially through the letter of Philip Buchen, Counsel to President Ford, to Senator Mark Hatfield, we have learned of activities of the Central Intelligence Agency as it seeks to use missionaries and foreign clergy for intelligence-gathering purposes of the U.S. government. Also, in your letter of January 16, 1976 to the National Council of the Churches of Christ you state:

"In fact, CIA has very few such contacts. (These) are limited to contacts in which those Americans provide information or assistance to their government in the same fashion as other Americans abroad patriotically assist their country. *** Further, our contacts with foreign clergy are also very limited."

In the light of the knowledge of these avowed intentions and practices, the Executive Committee of the Japan-North American Commission on Cooperative Mission (a coalition of eight U.S. churches and mission boards, two Canadian churches, and two churches in Japan) at a meeting January 21-22, 1976 in Atlanta, Georgia took this action:

VOTED that we, the members of the Executive Committee of the Japan-North American Commission on Cooperative Mission, composed of church representatives from Japan, Canada, and the United States deplore the acknowledged use by the CIA of missionaries and foreign clergy for intelligence gathering purposes and the declared intention to continue such use. We repudiate the use of missionaries and clergy by the CIA of the United States and by intelligence-gathering agencies of any country. We ask that such practices be discontinued immediately. We urge churches in our respective countries to support legislation designed to prohibit such practices.

We ask for appropriate respect for the role of Christian workers in their world-wide activities. We see any and all attempts by intelligence-gathering agencies to approach them or to use them as inconsistent with their commitment to reconciliation of all people through unity in Jesus Christ.